

We claim:

1. A laminate structure comprising a layer of
5 fabric, wherein a first polymer having a first stress
index is substantially contained within the fabric layer
and at least one layer of a second polymer coated onto at
least one surface of the fabric, the second polymer
having a second stress index higher than the first stress
10 index.
2. The structure of Claim 1, wherein the first
polymer has a stress index of about 5 MPa or less and the
second polymer has a stress index of least about 6 MPa.
3. The structure of Claim 1, wherein the first
15 polymer has a stress index of about 6 MPa or less and the
second polymer has a stress index of least about 7 MPa.
4. The structure of Claim 3 wherein the first
polymer is ethylene methyl acrylate.
5. The structure of Claim 2, wherein the first
20 polymer has a stress index of about 4 MPa or less.
6. The structure of Claim 2, wherein the second
polymer has a stress index of least about 9 MPa.
7. The structure of Claim 1, wherein the first
polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene
25 copolymer having a total comonomer content of at least 35
weight percent; thermoplastic elastomers having a Shore A
hardness of 90 or less; fully crosslinked rubber polymers
having a Shore A hardness of 90 or less; and polyvinyl
chloride having a Shore A hardness of 90 or less.
- 30 8. The structure of Claim 7, wherein the ethylene
copolymer is selected from the group consisting of
ethylene n-butyl acrylate carbon monoxide, ethylene vinyl
acetate, ethylene vinyl acetate carbon monoxide, ethylene
butyl acrylate, ethylene n-butyl acrylate glycidyl

methacrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate, ethylene acrylic acid, ethylene ethyl acrylate glycidyl methacrylate, and ethylene methyl acrylate glycidyl methacrylate.

5 9. The structure of Claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of styrene ethylene butylene styrene and polypropylene/ ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber.

10 10. The structure of Claim 1, wherein the second polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene copolymer; polyethylene; polypropylene; polyvinyl chloride; polypropylene/ethylene propylene diene monomer and styrene ethylene butylene styrene.

15 11. The structure of Claim 1, having a trapezoidal tear strength of at least about 80% of the trapezoidal tear strength of the fabric.

12. The structure of Claim 1, having a trapezoidal tear strength of at least about 18 kilograms in the machine direction.

20 13. The structure of Claim 1, wherein the fabric comprises a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

14. The structure of claim 13, wherein the fabric is a spunbonded polypropylene.

25 15. The structure of claim 1, wherein the fabric is a nonwoven material.

16. The structure of claim 1, wherein the fabric is a woven material.

30 17. A laminate structure comprising a layer of fabric, wherein a polymer having a stress index of about 6 MPa or less and a first portion of the polymer is substantially contained within the fabric layer and a

second portion of the polymer is coated onto at least one surface of the fabric.

18. A method of forming a laminate comprising the
- 5 steps of
- providing a fabric layer;
- applying a first polymer having a first stress index onto
- at least one surface of the fabric;
- applying pressure and temperature to the fabric layer and
- 10 first polymer, such that the first polymer is
- substantially impregnated into the fabric layer;
- applying a second polymer onto at least one surface of
- the fabric, the second polymer having a second stress
- index higher than the first stress index.